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the man who did not produce it. Rent, interest, and profits, as agencies of distribution, take the larger part of the values produced away from producers and give it to non-producers.

11. This social wrong cries out for correction. The source of permanent improvement lies in the direction of public ownership, which will transfer the power over distribution, which now rests with the individual owners of the means of production, to the hands of the people. Ownership is the key to distribution.

All of which is, as said above, a very interesting contribution of a professional economist to the sociological doctrine of the conflict of classes. The one-sided over-emphasis on the economic struggle is significant, because it once more furnishes silent, but potent evidence for the *raison d'être* of modern sociology as an academic discipline, and a factor in the intellectual life of society.

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Ein mittelbürgerliches Budget über einen zehnjährigen Zeitraum.
Nebst Anhang "Die Verteuerung der Lebenshaltung im
Lichte des Massenkonsums" von HENRIETTA FÜRTH.
Jena: Gustav Fischer, 1907.

The first and more unique part of this work can be presented best perhaps by a free translation of the author's introduction,

The household budget [she says] brings the economic life of the economic unit, the family, to the basis of figures.

Considerable attention has been given for some time to statistical studies including production, consumption, income expenditure, census, average number in families, religious connection, etc.

Attention was first paid, and properly so, to classes whose work was of uniform kind and whose mode of living was necessarily very much of the same type.

This monograph undertakes to do the same sort of work in a less explored field by studying a family of the middle class whose income puts the members upon a basis of plenty without superfluity but which appears to afford a special freedom from ordinary economic limitations.

It is also suggested that the study will take on an added interest, perhaps, from the fact that during the period of observation the father of the family changed his business from that of an indepen-

dent merchant to a salaried position in a commercial office. As a matter of course, this change secured to him a definite income. His former appearance of independence was in reality one of dependence upon and a struggle with capitalists.

During the time, also, the wife became a contributor to the income as did each child as soon as old enough, remaining in the home, however, and giving his earnings into the family. But even this total income did not provide for anything like extravagance in expenditure.

As indicated in the title the study covers a period of ten years beginning October 10, 1896. Budgets of previous years were obtainable, but were lacking in detail. The woman entered into the new bookkeeping, however, with great interest and intelligence, appreciating the value of such an exact picture in figures of the division of the income. The consent of the family to publish the results was not obtained until later.

Perhaps the most admirable feature of the study is the faithfulness with which every change of circumstance is noted. Health, sickness, journeys, marriages, birth of children, entertainment of guests, changes in household policy due to the wife taking up her old business of dressmaking, hiring of additional help are all taken into consideration in making up what proves to be a most comprehensive key to the fluctuations in the different tables of figures which show the division of expenditure along various lines. This, together with the sensitiveness with which a given curve of expenditure responds to a special circumstance in the family history, gives the work an interest which studies of the household budgets of the poorer classes cannot possess by reason of the fact that the economic limitations of the latter force their expenditures to the dead level of bare subsistence, while the prudence exercised by the former in order to meet the demands made upon them by reason of their higher standard of living fills the record with variety at least.

It is to be hoped that similar studies may be undertaken in this country where absence of definite class distinction has unhappily given rise to strong temptation to disregard even the economic bounds which do in a way mark the limitations of the standard of living.

The second part of the work consists of a general study of the increasing cost of the necessities of life. Some of the tables of prices cover a period of twenty years, viz., from 1886 to 1905 in-

clusive. While the prices quoted are for Germany alone the value of the study is not by any means confined to students of economics in that country.

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Soziologie: Untersuchungen über die Formen der Gesellschaft.

Von GEORG SIMMEL. Duncker and Humblot. Leipzig, 1908. Pp. 782.

This is one of the books with which every professional student of sociology must make himself familiar. To be sure Professor Simmel restricts the content of the term "sociology" to a limit which no other first-rate sociologist in Europe, with the possible exception of Professor Toennies, accepts, and no one in this country, so far as I am aware, is inclined to adopt his proposed usage. To Simmel sociology is merely the analysis of the forms of human groupings; it is a sort of social morphology, or crystallography. It is thus a mere fragment of the sociology which Americans have in mind when they use the term. This difference of terminology of course implies restrictions in method to which few sociologists are prepared to conform. On the other hand, even if we reject Simmel's conception of the proper scope of sociology, there can be no question that the relations which he treats are of cardinal importance for the interpretation of the social process. It is also true that Professor Simmel is without a rival in the special division of analysis represented in the present work.

The principal topics treated in this book are (1) the problem of sociology, i. e., an account of the author's point of view with reference to the scope of the subject; (2) the quantitative determination of the group; (3) superiority and subordination; (4) conflict; (5) secrecy and secret societies; (6) the intersection of social circles; (7) the pauper; (8) the self-maintenance of the group; (9) space and the spatial institutions of society; (10) the expansion of the group and the development of the individuality.

As the author states in a note to the Table of Contents, each of these chapters is a sort of focus around which numerous discussions are organized which would not be suggested by the chapter titles. Readers of this *Journal* have already seen forestudies for portions of several of the chapters, especially the second, third, fifth, and eighth.